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REP. ARENDS ON TIERRA VERDE

White House Handling Of Cuban News Hit

By GEORGE BARTLETT
Of The Times Staff

The American people are entitled to more information about Cuba than they are receiving from the Kennedy administration, Rep. Leslie C. Arends, R-Ill., said here yesterday during a press conference at the Port-o-Call on Tierra Verde.

Congressman Arends, Republican whip and ranking party member of the Armed Services Committee in the House, will be the main speaker at a fund-raising dinner for Pinellas County GOP at the Port-o-Call Monday night. Also attending the press conference was Rep. William C. Cramer of St. Petersburg.

Referring to Friday's disclosures by John A. McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, concerning the building of a Communist subversion organization in Cuba, Arends said he was glad McCone put it on the record so the American people would be alerted. The Armed

Services Committee, he said, has been given some intelligence reports, but McCone is not scheduled to appear before it.

Arends said he was called to the White House with others before the Cuban crisis and told what had taken place, but not what the administration was going to do. In that instance, he said, "the American people were ahead of Congress and Congress was ahead of the administration."

Concerning a statement by Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy that he is not planning to run for president in 1968, Arends said, "Anybody who believes that should go stand on his head in a corner."

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